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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF ELLAND.

Annual Report
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT,

FOR 1898.

ELLAND :
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District
Council of Elland.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1898.

BIRTH RATE.

250 Births were registered during the year, of which 137 were males and 113 females, at the rate of 22·72 per 1,000 ; of these 7 were illegitimate. This is a slight increase on the birth rate for 1897, which was 21·30, but is far from satisfactory, considering that the rate for England and Wales was 29·4.

My last report was criticised by a local newspaper, because I did not attempt to account for this decrease, which has been going on since 1891, when the rate was 27 per 1,000. As a matter of fact I tried to do so in my Report for 1894, and strange to say, this particular paragraph was the only one omitted in the newspaper report. I then expressed the opinion that it might be looked upon as a sign of physical deterioration or advancing civilization ; perhaps of both.

DEATH RATE.

144 Deaths occurred during the year, at the rate of 13·09 per 1,000, as compared with 17·6 for England and Wales. This is a very satisfactory state of affairs, and shews that the work of the District Council and of the Old Local Board is bearing good fruit. This is further proved by the fact that the death rate has shown a steady decrease from year to year. In 1891, the death rate was 20·1 ; in 1892, 17·4 ; in 1893, 15·49 ; in 1894, 11·8 (this was an exceptionally healthy year ; in 1895, 15·90 ; in 1896, 13·55, and in 1897, 15·04.

43 deaths were of children under 1 year of age, or at the rate of 172·0 per 1000 of births registered. The deaths of persons 65 years of age and upwards have been 36, at the rate of 25 per cent.

of total deaths, while 59 deaths occurred of children under 5 years of age at the rate of 40·9 per cent. of total deaths ; 5 deaths were uncertified and 6 certified by the Coroner of which two at least were due to suicidal drowning, the remaining 3 were also caused by drowning.

TABLE.

Showing mortality at subjoined ages.

At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.
144	43	16	2	5	432	36

Of the deaths registered, 9 were due to the principal Zymotic diseases, at the rate of 0·81 per 1000, as compared with 2·42 in 1897 and 1·23 in 1896 ; with the exception of the year 1894, the death rate from Infectious Diseases, has not been so low for many years ; the Zymotic death rate for England and Wales, was 2·22 and exclusive of the 100 large towns 1·75, so that we compare favourably in this respect, with other parts of the country.

The causes of this mortality will be seen in the following table :-

Name of Disease.		Under 5 years.	Over 5 years.
Small Pox	...	0	0
Scarlatina	...	0	0
Diphtheria	...	0	0
Membranous Croup	...	0	0
Typhus	...	0	0
Fevers	Enteric or Typhoid	1	0
Continued	...	0	0
Relapsing	...	0	0
Puerperal	...	0	0
Cholera	...	0	0
Erysipelas	..	0	0
Measles	...	1	0
Whooping Cough	...	1	0
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	...	5	1
Rheumatic Fever	...	0	1

Phthisis	...	...	...	2	...	13
Bronchitis, Pleurisy and						
Pneumonia	...	...	10	...	16	
Heart Disease	...	...	0	...	5	
Injuries (accidental and otherwise)			0	...	0	
All other diseases	...	...	38	...	47	
Influenza	...	...	1	...	2	

The epidemic of Measles which commenced in the latter part of 1897 in the town, spread during the beginning of 1898 to the outlying districts of Upper and Lower Edges, and it was thought expedient to close the National School at Lower Edge, so as to limit the extent of the epidemic as much as possible. This was accordingly done, with the best results, one death only occurring from this disease. 11 cases of Typhoid Fever were notified during the year, in many of the cases, sanitary defects were found and remedied, and in all cases thorough disinfection of infected premises was carried out by the Sanitary Inspector. This disease only proved fatal in one case of a child under five years of age.

Diarrhoea was prevalent during the months of September and October causing 6 deaths, 5 of them occurring of children under five years of age, I pointed out at the time that this disease might be largely prevented by more care in the preservation of foods, especially milk, which are frequently left about exposed to contamination by flies and other noxious influences. Diarrhoea at this time of the year is often followed by many cases of Typhoid Fever, I am glad to report that the year 1898 proved an exception in that respect, this was, I think, mainly due to the abnormal amount of rain and consequent flushing of the public sewers.

A considerable amount of sickness prevailed during the months of April and May, owing to the prevalence of Influenza, this disease which caused 3 deaths was often accompanied by a very fatal form of Pneumonia.

5 of the deaths occurring during the year were due to drowning, two or three of which were suicidal ; Elland thus contributing her share to that form of mania for self destruction which seemed almost epidemic in this part of the country.

TABLE.

Of new cases of infectious sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1898, as required by the Local Government Board.

			<i>Aged under 5 years.</i>		<i>Aged 5 years and upwards.</i>
Small Pox	...	...	...	0	...
Scarlatina	...	...	...	1	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0	...
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	0	...
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	0	...
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	...	...	1	...	10
Continued Fever	...	...	0	...	0
Relapsing Fever	...	...	0	...	0
Puerperal Fever	...	...	0	..	0
Cholera	...	...	0	...	0
Erysipelas	...	...	0	...	10

I estimated the population of your district in the middle of 1898, 11,000 as compared with 9,991, the population according to the last census of 1891. The rateable value of the district is £45990 15s. 0d., and the area in acres 1,483.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The improvement in both the quantity and quality of the smoke emitted by the mill chimneys, referred to in my annual report for 1897, has been maintained during 1898; the matter is being well looked after by your Sanitary Inspector, and the Council is, I believe, determined to prosecute gross offenders; recently an anonymous correspondent, complaining bitterly on this subject, informed me that most of the diseases from which we suffer are attributable to this cause; I cannot quite agree with my friend, as unconsumed carbon (smoke) is not directly injurious to health, though indirectly it is, by excluding the sun's rays and interfering with house ventilation.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Sewage Works are giving satisfaction, a clear effluent being generally obtained, the only difficulty is the trade effluent, which because of the solid matter contained in it, the difficulties to be contended with are greatly increased, both in precipitation and filtration; during the year a conference took place between your Council and the Manufacturers of the Town on this subject, the result of which will, I have no doubt be followed by an earnest effort on the part of the latter, to cooperate with you in increasing the efficiency of the outfall works. That the Works are answering the purpose for which they were constructed may also be gathered from the fact that about 50 tons of dried solids are extracted every week:

When the authorities up the river have done their duty in respect to the purification of their sewage, the success of your scheme will be assured, as, when the river is very full, there is a considerable damming back at the filter beds, which partly chokes the pipes with filth, and renders, as a consequence, the effluent less satisfactory.

CONCLUSION.

When you consider the figures given in this report showing a low general death rate, a low zymotic death rate, coupled with the fact that sickness of a preventable character did not prevail to any large extent, I think you will agree with me that the sanitary condition of the town is satisfactory ; yet there is much good work still unaccomplished. Your Council has in hand at the present time, several projects which, when carried out, must prove of the greatest utility, notably your Public Baths scheme ; I earnestly hope that in the near future, your efforts will be exerted towards the improvement of the sanitary conditions of the outlying districts of Upper and Lower Edges, especially the latter locality, where, as I have pointed out in many previous reports, the drainage is of the most primitive character. The state of certain roads in these localities also claims your immediate attention.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

Elland,

ROBT. N. DENNING,

May 1st, 1899.

Medical Officer of Health.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ELLAND.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report

FOR THE

Year Ending December 31st, 1898.



*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District
Council of Elland.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report of the work of the Sanitary Department for the year ending December 31st, 1898.

Removal of Nightsoil and Ashes.

This is carried out with efficiency, and no complaints are made of any moment.

	Nightsoil.	Ashes.	Total.
	Loads.	Loads.	Loads.
January ...	163	87	250
February ...	137	78	215
March ...	192	80	272
April ...	141	60	201
May ...	157	89	246
June ...	190	82	272
July ...	133	87	220
August ...	147	107	254
September ...	142	96	238
October ...	146	100	246
November ...	165	85	250
December ...	132	64	196
Total ...	1845	1015	2860

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

There has been an improvement in the smoke nuisance during the year, as the following table shows. No doubt the coming year will shew a still greater improvement.

Name of Firm.	Address.	No. of Observations taken.	Average No. of minutes of Dense Smoke emitted.	Average No. of minutes Mod'rate Smoke emitted.
Ainley John	Bridge	6	Nil	Nil
Beaumont Jos. Exors.	Elland Mills.....	6	1	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Brearley Joseph.....	Kiln End Mills	6	$\frac{1}{2}$	2
Briggs John	Bank Bottom	6	$4\frac{3}{4}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Casson James	Norton Mills	6	$\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{3}{4}$
Casson T. & Bro.	Commercial Mills.....	6	$8\frac{3}{4}$	$7\frac{3}{4}$
Crossley W. & J. E.....	Broad Lea Mill	6	$\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Davis Francis No. 1....	Calder Dye Works ...	6	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$
do, No. 2....	do	6	$4\frac{1}{4}$	4
Dewhirst J. & Co. Ltd..	Valley Mills	6	Nil	Nil
Dyson Jas. & Co.	Atlas Works.....	6	$2\frac{1}{2}$	2
Dyson James Exors	Long Lea Mill	6	$1\frac{1}{2}$	1
Dyson Sam.....	Grove Mills	6	Nil	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Elland Gas Co.	Gas Works	6	Nil	Nil
Friends Provident Inst.	South Lane Mills ...	6	$14\frac{1}{2}$	9
Foster L. P.	Providence Mill	6	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Garsed D. & Sons.....	Spa Field Mill.....	6	3	3
Halstead G. H. & J.....	Bank Bottom	6	$\frac{1}{2}$	1
Hawkyard W.	Victoria Brick Works	6	Nil	Nil
Heaton Thos.....	Owlet Hall Mill	6	$3\frac{3}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Hemingway S.	Whitwell Mill	6	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$
Iredale W. & Co.	Westbury Mills	6	1	$3\frac{3}{4}$
Kaye R. & Sons	Albion Mill	6	1	2
Lumb James & Sons.....	Perseverance Brass W	6	$4\frac{3}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Lumb Geo. Ld.	Wellington Mills.....	6	5	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Luty E. & Sons...	New Hall Clay Works	6	Nil	Nil
Mackrell James.....	Perseverance Mill ...	6	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$
do	Union Foundry	6	Nil	Nil
Milner J. F.	Woodside Mills	6	8	4
Smithies & Ainley	Albert Mills..	6	$8\frac{1}{4}$	12
Smithies John	Marshall Hall	6	$1\frac{1}{2}$	5
Sutcliffe Bros. Ltd.	Park Road	6	Nil	2
Thornton E. & R. Ld. ...	Grove Mills	6	2	3
Taylor T. & B.	Riverside Mills	6	Nil	2
Whiteley Thos. & Sons.	Smithfield Mill	6	2	5
Wilkinson S.	Blackley	6	Nil	Nil
Wilson Robert	Exchange Mills	6	Nil	1
Walker George	Bridgefield Mill	6	$5\frac{1}{4}$	3
Woodman Pipe Co. Ld.	Woodman No. 1 ...	6	Nil	Nil
do.	do. No. 2	6	Nil	Nil

CANAL BOATS.

I have visited a number of Boats passing through the District, and found them very satisfactory.

DAIRIES & COW SHEDS.

The Dairies and Cow Sheds are kept very clean throughout the District, and no interference has been necessary.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

These are regularly visited and are very much better kept than formerly.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE—

Total number of visits made	...	...	...	584
Number of visits made with respect to house drainage	...	...	...	139
Number of visits made with respect to Infectious diseases	...	...	...	74
Rooms disinfected	...	...	..	59
Cases removed to Hospital	...	...	...	0
House drains cleansed and repaired	..	...	...	46
,, ,, re-constructed to remove nuisance			13	
,, ,, dis-connected and trapped		...	43	
New Slop Closets constructed	...	...	...	6
New Water Closets constructed	...	...	...	3
Old W. C's. replaced with new ones	...	...	...	2
Offensive manure heaps removed	...	...	...	3
Smoke observations taken	..	...	...	234

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

Council Offices,
Elland,

May, 1899.

P. H. WHITWAM,
Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE C 1898.**ELLAND URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.***Medical Officer of Health*—R. N. DENNING, M.D.*Sanitary Inspector*—P. H. WHITWAM.*Water Supply*—

Quality—Good.

Action on Lead—Nil.

Any extensions or change during 1898?—No.

Any inadequacy in any part?—No.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal—

Any inadequacy in any part?—Yes.

Scavenging—Are the privy-middens, etc., cleansed by Sanitary Staff,
by Contractors, or by Owners and Tenants?—
Sanitary Staff.*Adoptive Acts*—

Parts Adopted and Date.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act,

1890—All.—July 25th, 1895.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890—July 25th, 1895.

What was the amount paid to practitioners under the Infectious
Disease (Notification) Act during 1898?—£3 10s. 0d.*Bye-Laws*—

Any adopted or sanctioned during 1898?—No.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	Number Regis- tered.	Number Insp- ected.	General Condition.	Legal Proceedings (if any).
Common Lodging Houses ...	Nil.	...	...	...
Canal Boats	7	24	Good.	...
Slaughter Houses.....	8	8	"	..
Bakehouses	7	7	"	...
{ Dairies	4	4	"	...
{ Cowsheds	39	39	"	...
{ Milkshops	19	19	"	...
Offensive Trades	{ 3 Tripe Boilers 1 Soap Boiler		"	...

Isolation Hospital—Halifax and Huddersfield Hospitals generally available.

Disinfecting Apparatus—Nil.

Compensation paid for infected articles destroyed during 1898—Nil.

Dwellings—

Number of Houses built during 1898—13. General character—Through.

Any houses unfit for habitation?—No.

Any overcrowding of persons in houses?—No.

Any overcrowding of houses *on area*?—No.

Any action taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890?—No.

Miscellaneous—

Is House-to-house Inspection systematically made?—No.

Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1897—3. At close of 1898—6. Reported during 1898—25. Abated during 1898—22.

Total No. of Summonses or other Legal Proceedings—Nil.

No. of Sink wastes disconnected during 1898—43.

“ “ trapped “ —43.

No. of Closets constructed during 1898—10. Kinds—Slop and Tubs.

Any diseases peculiarly endemic in the district?—No.

Any information as to number of deaths from cancer of all kinds during 1898?—Yes, 10 deaths.

Any information as to number of deaths from Tabes Mesenterica?—No.

Vaccination—General efficiency—seldom carried out.

Seizure of Unsound Food—Nil. Prosecutions—Nil.

Samples under Sale of Food and Drugs Act—Nil. Prosecutions—Nil.

River Pollution—See text of report.

Smoke Abatement—Continued improvements. No of observations taken—234.

Inspection of Factories and Workshops—Carried out.

Schools—No. in District—4. No. closed on account of outbreaks of disease—1. Total duration of closure from this cause—4 weeks.

Burial Grounds—No. in District—4. Any need for extension?—Not immediate.

Births—Males—137. Females—113. Total—250.

Number illegitimate, included in the above—7.

Any information as to Still Births—No.

Deaths—Males—72. Females—72. Total—144.

Number uncertified, included in the above—5.

RATEABLE VALUE as stated in Valuation List.	Value upon which the General District Rate is Assessed.			Rate in the £ 1898.
	Full Rateable value. (Houses, etc.)	One-fourth Rateable Value (Land, etc.)	Two-thirds Rateable Value (where owner is assessed).	
(1) £45,990 : 15 : 0	(2) £37175 : 15 : 0	(3) £2,203 : 15 : 0	(4)	2s. 6d.

Sanitary Requirements of District, and Suggestions of Medical Officer of Health—See text of Report.

